

MEETING REPORT

COMMITTEE NAME: Mental Health Planning Council of Virginia

MEETING DATE: June 20, 2007

TIME: 10:00am

PLACE: Richmond, VA

MEETING AGENDA – MAIN DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Introductions and Announcements

The Council members introduced themselves and shared information regarding recent conferences / trainings they attended related to their agency/consumer/advocacy group. Jack Wood, President, also recognized Dawn Girard and welcomed her back to the Council.

2. DRS Commissioner, Jim Rothrock

Jack L. Wood, President, introduced Jim Rothrock, Commission of the Department of Rehabilitative Services, and welcomed him to the meeting.

Mr. Rothrock provided the Council with a brief overview of the history of DRS, and noted that the agency has gone from an emphasis on physical medicine and rehabilitation to also providing vocational services to individuals with mental illnesses. Mr. Rothrock also discussed the agency's Dedicated Funds for individuals with significant mental illnesses and the "Order of Selection" process. He asked that as the members of the Council advocate for services for persons with mental illness, they support the importance of work for those individuals as well.

Mr. Rothrock opened the floor to questions from the Council, and also provided information on the following issues:

- DRS involvement with patients prior to discharge from State hospitals.
- Trainings held with employers to promote the positive aspects of hiring individuals with mental illnesses.
- The use of non-traditional methods / jobs in the traditional workplace.
- Developing relationships with national companies to place individuals with mental illnesses.

3. Committee Reports

A. Adult Services

Lisa Moore, Committee Vice President, reported on the May 11 meeting of the Adult Services Committee held in Charlottesville. She noted that the committee discussed many of the items presented at the seminars and conferences already mentioned by the members during the earlier introductions; however, the smaller venue allowed for more in depth dialogue.

Ms. Moore also reported that during the meeting the committee made a recommendation that, in light of the recent Virginia Tech incident, the Mental Health Planning Council should develop a position paper around promoting awareness of individuals with mental illnesses. The Council discussed and approved the

recommendation presented; Mr. Wood will solicit input from several Council members and then circulate a draft to all members for editing and revision. Mr. Wood also noted that it would be appropriate to distribute the position paper to the DMHMRSAS State Board, the General Assembly and the Governor.

The next meeting of the Adult Services Committee will be held on July 13, 2007 in Charlotte - Ms. Moore will send invitations to all of the Council members.

B. Children Services

Vicky Hardy-Murrel, Committee Chair, reported that during their first meeting the Children Services Committee looked at services for children across the State, and noted that although all CSBs throughout the State have received funding for children services, there are some CSBs that do not have children services. Additional items discussed included:

- A block grant proposal for \$100,000 for family education / involvement / support
- The lack of acute stabilization beds for children with mental health / mental retardation issues
- Grandparent-to-Grandparent
- PROJECT TREAT
- Mental Health Waiver System for children/adolescents

Ms. Hardy reminded the Council that the Children Services Committee meets immediately following today's meeting at 3:00pm, and encouraged other members to attend.

C. Membership

Rebecca Currin, Committee Chair, announced that two (2) applicants for membership were present at today's meeting: Vinnie Dabney, SAARA of Virginia, and Heather [REDACTED]. Ms. Currin also noted that the Council is also losing three (3) members: Raymond Bridge, Joe Speidel and Sherry Rose. Jack Wood invited Mr. Bridge and Ms. Rose (Mr. Speidel was not in attendance) to attend the retreat in October to allow the Council an opportunity to express their appreciation for their service.

D. Budget

Jack Wood reported on the current balance of the budget, and encouraged members who would like to attend conferences or training to contact him. Jo-Amrah McElroy asked Council members to send information regarding upcoming and annual training/conferences to her via email for inclusion on the website.

4. **Block Grant Review**

Jo-Amrah McElroy presented an overview of the first draft of the FY 2008 Community Mental Health Services Block Grant Application. She noted that the application is due in September 2007 – the data shown in this draft will be completely updated. Also, Ms. McElroy asked that any corrections to membership information be sent to her via email. Janet Lung provided additional information regarding the process and data collection.

Mr. Martinez and Mr. Ferris answered questions regarding how the Block Grant funds are allocated to the individual Community Services Boards. The Council members also discussed the importance of CSB accountability regarding where the money is spent and their compliance with the Performance Contracts. Members suggested that discussion on this issue continue in the next Adult Services Committee meeting and the upcoming retreat in October.

In addition, the following will be provided to Council members:

- Ms. McElroy will send a notification via email when the final version is complete.
- A copy of the final application will be posted on the website.
- Mr. Wood will prepare a draft of the letter to accompany the application and send it to Council members for their review and input.
- A condensed version of the goals and objectives will be prepared and sent via email.

5. **Comprehensive State Plan**

Charline Davidson reported that the Comprehensive State Plan is being updated; she is currently in the process of finalizing the waiting list. Ms. Davidson encouraged Council members to send information on any issues or particular areas that they would like to have reflected in this plan to her via email.

6. **Block Grant One Time Funds**

Jim Martinez reported on the Block Grant One Time Fund balance and the status of some of the requests. Mr. Wood encouraged the members who have applied for funds to follow up with Mr. Martinez and provide him with as much information as necessary to expedite the awarding of those funds.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: October 19-20, 2007 Retreat

Place: Charlottesville Omni

Jack L. Wood, President